

Artist Statement

Nora Jane Hipshear

My work responds to issues relating to the human body such as identity construction, societal roles, and the dynamics of social power. By focusing on the historical aspects of feminine identity, I analyze ways in which attire is presented and persona is outwardly shown. By using myself as a model, I can express my own experiences as a young woman.

We are all burdened with perspectives on the world due to those things we are exposed to everyday. Layers of images burn into the backs of my eyes, conversations I've had, and questions I ask myself in diary entries are all things that influence my perception of a situation. I wish to express all this semantic noise in the form of layered images and text. I address my own issues in my ceramic work through my body forms, text, images, and cartoons.

I am working on intense emotions within my own life, both positive and negative. The forms that I have chosen look back to historical and contemporary dress to create a surface that describes a part of myself. These surface decorations either accent or work against my natural shape. The exaggeration of my form points to social pressures on women in America that push us to be pure, beautiful creatures, and the motherly center of our homes. We are all clad in costumes, conveying who we are and who we want to be within everyday interactions in our environment. My forms reveal my own conflict between my role in society and who I am. I am exploring what I love about myself and what I hate.